



Calvary Baptist Church

For the week of:
09/30/2024

Family Worship Guide

New City
Catechism

Q5: What else did God create?

A: God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

WELCOME

Why should we do a family devotional?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

As long as there have been a “people of God,” the command given to them has always been that they would be instructing their children in the way of the Lord. It is expected that parents will be teaching their children.

But teaching children is more than simply giving rules. It involves showing them HOW to obey the Lord by doing it yourself! These family devotionals are meant to equip you as an individual to grow in your understanding of the Lord and His Word, as well as providing parents with the resources and opportunities to demonstrate for their children what it looks like to pursue God.

What is a catechism?

Catechisms are teaching tools. Since ancient times these tools have been used to instruct those who are young in the faith and to remind the more mature of the essential truths they believe.

Catechisms work through a series of questions and prewritten answers. Answers that are derived through what Scripture says. Each week we will examine ONE question and its answer from the New City Catechism. You will be encouraged to memorize the question and response as we work through the biblical support for the answer. (If children can memorize it and recite it to Tim in the office on Sunday, they may get a surprise!)

For more resources related to the catechism, follow the QR code.



MONDAY

Read Genesis 1

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week

Discuss

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. There is nothing around you that exists that God did not create. You filled with, surrounded by, and sustained by what God has created.

Everything you enjoy in this world comes from God. The flowers you so enjoy to see? God made those. The birds that you hear singing? God made those. The sun that lights your day? God made that. The expanse of the ocean? God made that.

Everywhere you look you see the handiwork of God. If you look at a beautiful painting, do you think “Wow! It’s so amazing that this popped out of nowhere to be so beautiful!” NO! You think, “Wow! What amazing talent this artist had!”

When you experience the joys of the world around you, they should cause you to stop and remember the God who made it all. And to praise Him for it.

Discussion Questions

- Do you praise God for ALL that He has given you? I mean really ALL of it.
- What is there that God has created that you take for granted?
 - Make a list and praise God for each of the things you write down.

Sing

The Perfect Wisdom of Our God
Keith and Kristen Getty

Pray

Repent of not praising God for everything He has given. Praise Him now for His creation

THE PERFECT WISDOM OF OUR GOD

Verse 1:

The perfect wisdom of our God
Revealed in all the universe:
All things created by His hand
And held together at His command.
He knows the mysteries of the seas,
The secrets of the stars are His;
He guides the planets on their way
And turns the earth through another day.

Verse 2:

The matchless wisdom of His ways
That mark the path of righteousness;
His word a lamp unto my feet,
His Spirit teaching and guiding me.
And O the mystery of the cross,
That God should suffer for the lost,
So that the fool might shame the wise,
And all the glory might go to Christ!

Verse 3:

O grant me wisdom from above,
To pray for peace and cling to love,
And teach me humbly to receive
The sun and rain of Your sovereignty.
Each strand of sorrow has a place
Within this tapestry of grace;
So through the trials I choose to say:
"Your perfect will in Your perfect way."



TUESDAY

Read Hebrews 11

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (try to memorize it)

Discuss

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

Hebrews 11 is often called the hall of fame of faith. It serves to remind us of the reality of all those who have come before us walking faithful in the way of the Lord.

Before the author of Hebrews tells us anything about those who have come before us, he lays important groundwork. That the faithfulness of all these saints is rooted in and built upon the faithfulness of God. And the faithfulness of God is displayed in creation.

God didn't make creation out of anything. Creation is made simply because God wills it to be. No one made Him create the world, and no one can add to it. He has made all things and He sustains all things.

As God sustains all things, He also sustains our faith. Just like you can't speak a planet into creation, you also can't save yourself or keep yourself saved unless God does it for you. All of creation depends on and is held up by God, including your soul.

Discussion Questions

- Does creation cause you to consider the faithfulness of God?
- What should God's faithfulness and sovereignty in creation do to our fears, worries, and anxieties? How might this reality help them?
- Does God's work in creation inspire you to have greater faith in Him? Why or why not?

Sing

Whate'er My God Ordains is Right
Samuel Rodigast

Pray

Praise God for how He
made you

WHATE'ER MY GOD ORDAINS IS RIGHT

Verse 1:

1 Whate'er my God ordains is right:
his holy will abideth;
I will be still, whate'er he doth,
and follow where he guideth.
He is my God; though dark my road,
he holds me that I shall not fall:
wherefore to him I leave it all.

Verse 2:

Whate'er my God ordains is right:
he never will deceive me;
he leads me by the proper path;
I know he will not leave me.
I take, content, what he hath sent;
his hand can turn my griefs away,
and patiently I wait his day.

Verse 3:

Whate'er my God ordains is right:
though now this cup, in drinking,
may bitter seem to my faint heart,
I take it, all unshrinking.
My God is true; each morn anew
sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,
and pain and sorrow shall depart.

Verse 4:

Whate'er my God ordains is right:
here shall my stand be taken;
though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
yet am I not forsaken.
My Father's care is round me there;
he holds me that I shall not fall:
and so to him I leave it all.



WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 1:18-23

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (try to memorize it)

Discuss

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”
Genesis 1:31

God created all things perfectly. All of creation was set in place and established to declare the glory of God.

If God is perfect, then of course His creation didn't have any error. Everything was made to perfectly do what it was designed to do: to declare His glory. Not everything declares God's glory in the same way, but all of it proclaims the glory of God in different ways.

The glory of God is the highest good anything could ever proclaim or work to serve. God Himself is the standard of all that is true, all that is beautiful, all that is good. God isn't defined BY goodness, He is the very definition of goodness! So when God said all creation was very good, what He was saying was that this creation was declaring His glory and His character well.

Some people have tried to say that the material world is “evil” or “bad” and that we need to only be concerned about the spiritual world. The reality though is that God demonstrates a deep concern for the physical world, He even calls it good.

Discussion Questions

- In what ways do you see the glory of God displayed in creation?
- How should we respond to the glory of God in creation? Think of what the people in Romans 1 did NOT do.

Sing

This is My Father's World
Maltbie D. Babcock

Pray

Praise for those in your
life who do not know
the God who created
them

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

Verse 1:

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.

Verse 2:

This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Verse 3:

This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!



THURSDAY

Read Psalm 33

Read and repeat the Catechism of the week (quiz each other and yourself to see if you have it memorized)

Discuss

“By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made.”

A lot of people will tell you that the world is random. That we evolved over billions and billions of years. That there is really nothing that makes you and I different than a beluga whale, an aardvark, or your pet dog.

Scripture tells us something very very different though. Far from being random, this world was created with intention! God spoke everything into being. Everything exists because God chose for it to exist. Nothing came into existence without God deciding for it to, and nothing will stop existing unless God decides for it to.

My friend, you are not random. You have a purpose. You were made in the image of God, by God, for God's glory.

If you find yourself asking, “Why am I even here?” The answer is you are here because God has placed you here that He would be glorified in your life. Just like the rest of creation, God has care and intention in creating you

Discussion Questions

- Do you realize God made you intentionally? You specifically. And that He cares for you?
- Do you find comfort knowing that God has been intentional and caring about every part of creation?

Sing

The Love of God
Frederick M. Lehman

Pray

Thank God for His love
for His creation

THE LOVE OF GOD

Verse 1:

The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.
The wand'ring child is reconciled
by God's beloved Son.
The aching soul again made whole,
and priceless pardon won.

Refrain:

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.

Verse 2:

When ancient time shall pass away,
and human thrones and kingdoms fall;
when those who here refuse to pray
on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
grace will resound the whole earth round—
the saints' and angels' song. [Refrain]

Verse 3:

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
and ev'ryone a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky. [Refrain]



FRIDAY

Read Psalm 27:4, 107:1; and John 17:17 (consider reading the entire chapters)

Practice the catechism of the week. Try to recite it without looking!

Discuss

The good, the true, and the beautiful.

We live in an age where people say, “What’s good for you isn’t good for me. What’s true for you isn’t true for me. What’s beautiful to you isn’t beautiful to me.” Our age is subjective... or at least claims to be.

But those who argue for pure subjectivity in all things will always agree that $2+2=4$. They believe that there are some things that are objectively true. They will believe that some things are wrong and some things are right. That it is always wrong to dump motor oil onto a baby duck. So truth isn’t purely subjective. And they will even agree that a blossoming daisy is more beautiful than a garbage dump, so beauty isn’t purely subjective either.

God is the one who is the final standard of what is good, what is true, and what is beautiful. He is these things and He has created the world to display these things. Certain actions violate the way God created the world, these things are not good, are not true, and are not beautiful because they do not look like God. Being made in the image of God, you are able to see and experience and truly understand the good, the true, and the beautiful by knowing and understanding Him through His Word.

Discussion Questions

- Do you usually think about the good, the true and the beautiful as subjective (meaning you decide if something is beautiful) or objective (that someone else decides what is beautiful, true, or good)? Why?
- Why does it matter that God is the standard of beauty and goodness?

Sing

Doxology
Thomas Ken

Pray

Adore God by praising
Him for His beauty,
goodness, and truth.

DOXOLOGY

Verse 1:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Verse 2:

Praise God the Father who's the source;
Praise God the Son who is the course;
Praise God the Spirit who's the flow;
Praise God, our portion here below!

There are many different versions of this hymn. The first verse is always the same but as you will see in the video, the second often changes.



This link is a fun tutorial to learn the doxology in sign language! A fun family activity!

